

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 06035 282244Z
ACTION ARA-14

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: BEXP, AFSP, BL
SUBJ: INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS - COMMENT ON
COMPLIANCE REPORT

REF: STATE 176522

1. RECOMMENDATION 3.1/4.1-3. UNFORTUNATELY, SINCE THE POST RESPONDED TO THE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATIONS, POLITICAL UNREST HAS UPSET COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN BOLIVIA. AT THE SAME TIME THE COMBINED POL/ECOM SECTION HAS BEEN HIT WITH SEVERE PERSONNEL SHORTAGES (ILLNESS, EMERGENCIES AND LONG GAPS FOR TRANSFERRED OFFICIERS). THE REMAINING POL/ECOM OFFICERS HAVE HAD TO TURN INCREASED ATTENTION TO THE CRITICAL, IMMEDIATE POLITICAL EVENTS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE POST HAS IMPLEMENTED SEVERAL CHANGES IN THE COMMERCIAL ACTION PROGRAM WHICH WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMERCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE. THE COMMERCIAL SECTION SECRETARIAL POSITION IS BEING CONVERTED TO A FULL-TIME POSITION AND THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER (FSO-6) HAS MOVED HIS OFFICE TO THE COMMERCIAL SECTION WHERE HE NOW SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME IN COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED AT THE APRIL 20 COMMERCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING

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DUE TO THE FACTORS MENTIONED ABOVE.

AS SOON AS POLITICAL PREASURES AND THE STAFFING PROBLEMS EASE SOMEWHAT, WE EXPECT TO REACTIVATE THE COMMERCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE AND NAME A WORKING GROUP TO EVALUATE AND COORDINATE THE COMMERCIAL ACTION PROGRAM. MEANWHILE, THERE WILL FOLLOW IN A SEPTEL AN OUTLINE OF

WASHINGTON SUPPORT NEEDS AS DEVELOPED IN THE LAST
COMMERCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING.

2. RECOMMENDATION 7.1A-1. WE BELIEVE THAT PARA 2 A OF LA
PAZ 5377 (SUBJECT "ADMINISTRATIVE CROSS-SERVICING
PROPOSAL") PROVIDES A FULLER EXPLANATION REGARDING THE
PROBLEMS INVOLVED WITH CONSOLIDATION OF THE THE MAINTENANCE
FUNCTION. A SALIENT POINT IS THAT AID'S 9-MAN PERSONAL
SERVICES CONTRACT GROUP SPENDS A LARGE PORTION OF ITS
TIME ON MATTERS OTHER THAN MAINTENANCE WHILE THE
EMBASSY'S 12-MAN CONTRACT GROUP IS ALMOST ENTIRELY
INVOLVED WITH MAINTENANCE. WE DO NOT SEE HOW
MERGING OF THE TWO GROUPS COULD SAVE EITHER AGENCY
MONEY IN THAT SERVICE NEEDS AND PERSONNEL NEEDS
REMAIN UNCHANGED, AND WE BELIEVE SERVICE MIGHT SUFFER.
BOTH AID AND THE EMBASSY BELIEVE THE LONG RANGE
APPROACH INDICATED IN LA PAZ 5377, DEVELOPING AN
OUTSIDE MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION THAT WE MIGHT THEN
CONTRACT WITH ON A JOINT BASIS, IS THE MOST VIABLE
APPROACH.
BOEKER

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